

At page 4, line 27, after "tampon 10.", please cancel the amendment filed on or about August 19, 1994.

At page 4, line 27, after "tampon 10.", please insert -- It will be readily recognized that the resulting tampon may have outwardly open grooves, as illustrated in Fig. 2; or closed grooves, as illustrated in Fig. 4. ^{ins}

In the Drawing:

Please cancel the proposed amendment filed on or about April 10, 1996 and July 1, 1996. Instead, please replace drawing sheet 1, depicting Figs. 1-3 and 10 with the enclosed replacement sheet.

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

10. (Thrice amended) Apparatus according to Claim ⁶ 9, wherein each press cutter projects radially inward from the press die end face by an equal distance and is separated from [the] its respective adjacent press cutter by an equal angular amount (α). ⁵

23. (Twice amended) A tampon for feminine hygiene, comprising a generally cylindrical absorbent portion having a generally cylindrical compressed, solid fibre core from which longitudinal ribs extend radially outward, wherein each of the ribs has a proximal end attached to the fibre core, each of the ribs is compressed less than the fiber core, thereby having a coarser capillary structure than the fibre core, each of the ribs is separated from adjacent ribs at the proximal end by an amount greater than such rib is separated from an adjacent longitudinal rib proximate the distal end[, and the tampon is free of restrictions to substantial radial expansion].